

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An Antisense antisense~~ oligonucleotides ~~phosphorothioate~~ against Smad7 up to 21 nucleotides in length which comprises a portion of at least 10 nucleotides of the following sequence (SEQ ID No 2): 5'-GTX~~Y~~CCCC~~TT~~CTCCCXYCAG-3' wherein X is a nucleotide comprising a nitrogenous base selected from the group consisting of cytosine, 5-methylcytosine and 2'-~~OH~~-methylcytosine and wherein Y is a nucleotide comprising a nitrogenous base selected from the group consisting of guanine, 5-methylguanine 2'-~~OH~~ -methylguanine, provided that at least one of the nucleotides X or Y comprises a methylated nitrogenous base; or the complementary sequence thereto.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An Antisense antisense~~ oligonucleotides according to claim 1, wherein at least one nucleotide of the sequence is methylphosphonate; internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

3. -5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An Antisense antisense~~ oligonucleotides according to claim 1, wherein at least one nucleotide of the sequence is a 2'-O-methylribonucleotide 5'-monophosphate.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An Antisense antisense~~ oligonucleotides according to claim 6, wherein said at least one 2'-O-methylribonucleotide 5'-monophosphate is placed at only one of the 3' or 5' ends or at both 3' and 5' ends or along the oligonucleotide sequence.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An Antisense antisense~~ oligonucleotides according to claim 1 wherein 2'-deoxyribonucleotides are replaced by the corresponding ribonucleotides.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An Antisense antisense~~ oligonucleotides according to claim 1 having sequence (SEQ ID No 4): 5'-ZTXGCCCTTCTCCXGCAZ-3' wherein X is 5-methyl 2'-deoxycytidine 5'-monophosphate and Z is 2'-deoxyguanosine methylphosphonate.

10. (Currently Amended) An Antisense antisense oligonucleotides according to claim 1 having sequence (SEQ ID No 15): 5'-ZTXGCCCCCTTCTCCCXGCAZC-3' wherein X is 5-methyl 2'-deoxycytidine 5'-monophosphate and Z is 2'- deoxyguanosine methylphosphonate.

11. (Currently Amended) An Antisense antisense oligonucleotides according to claim 1 having sequence (SEQ ID No 3): 5'-GTXGCCCCCTTCTCCCXGAG-3' wherein X is 5-methyl 2'-deoxycytidine 5'-monophosphate.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) Pharmaceutical composition which comprises at least one of the antisense oligonucleotides as defined in claim 1 as active principle together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants and/or excipients.

14. -16. (Canceled).

17. (New) An antisense oligonucleotide up to 21 nucleosides in length, comprising SEQ ID. NO. 3. or complements thereof.

18. (New) The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 17, wherein at least one internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

19. (New) The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 17, wherein the internucleoside linkages are phosphorothioate linkages.

20. (New) A composition comprising the oligonucleotide of claim 18 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

21. (New) A method of treating inflammatory bowel disease, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically acceptable amount of the antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises SEQ ID. NO. 3.

23. (New) A method of treating Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically acceptable amount of the antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises SEQ ID. NO. 3.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is administered orally.